INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The specification has been amended via this Amendment to correct an informality associated with the priority claim. The Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment and consideration and allowance of the subject application including pending claims 63-106.

Amendment Application Serial No. 09/870,023 Inventors: Branch et al. Page 2 of 4

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1 immediately following the Heading "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPPLICATION" with the following amended paragraph:

-- The present application claims priority to and is a divisional of United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/698,623 filed on October 27, 2000, now United States Patent No. 6,610,065; and, which is also a divisional of United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/181,353 filed on October 28, 1998, now United States Patent No. 6,174,311; and is a Continuation-in-Part of pending United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/701,933, filed on August 20, 2001, which is the national stage of International Application No. PCT/US98/17769, filed on August 27, 1998, published as WO 99/09914. --

Amendment Application Serial No. 09/870,023 Inventors: Branch et al. Page 3 of 4